

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A digital camera, comprising:
2 a housing;
3 a digital optical sensing apparatus mounted within said housing, said digital
4 optical sensing apparatus sensing optical images;
5 a processor for controlling operation of said digital camera, said processor
6 operating said digital camera in at least two modes of operation, including:
7 (a) a first mode of operation, wherein said digital optical sensing apparatus senses
8 a biometric parameter of a user of said camera, said processor identifying said user from
9 said biometric parameter; and
10 (b) a second mode of operation, wherein said digital optical sensing apparatus
11 captures and records an image of an object of interest.
- 1 2. The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said biometric parameter is an iris of said
2 user's eye.
- 1 3. The digital camera of claim 1,
2 further comprising a viewing window for viewing an image of said object of
3 interest by said user;
4 wherein, in said first mode of operation, said digital optical sensing apparatus
5 senses light representing said biometric parameter, said light entering said camera through
6 said viewing window.
- 1 4. The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said processor further associates user
2 identifying data with a recorded image of an object of interest, said user identifying data
3 being obtained using said biometric parameter.

1 5. The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said processor further selectively enables
2 at least one camera function responsive to identifying said user from said biometric
3 parameter.

1 6. A digital camera, comprising:

2 a housing;

3 a biometric sensing apparatus for sensing a biometric parameter of a user of said
4 digital camera;

5 a processor for controlling operation of said digital camera;

6 a memory, said memory storing biometric parameters associated with one or more
7 potential users of said digital camera;

8 wherein said processor identifies a user of said camera by comparing data
9 obtained from said biometric sensing apparatus with said biometric parameters associated
10 with one or more potential users in said memory, and, responsive to identifying a user,
11 associates user identifying information with a digital image captured by said digital
12 camera.

1 7. The digital camera of claim 6, wherein said biometric parameter is an optically
2 measured parameter.

1 8. The digital camera of claim 7, wherein said biometric parameter is an iris of said
2 user's eye.

1 9. The digital camera of claim 7, wherein said optically measured biometric
2 parameter is obtained by said digital camera using the same digital optical sensing
3 apparatus that is used for obtaining images of objects of interest.

1 10. The digital camera of claim 9,
2 further comprising a viewing window for viewing an image of an object of
3 interest by said user;
4 wherein said digital optical sensing apparatus senses light representing said
5 optically measured biometric parameter, said light entering said camera through said
6 viewing window.

1 11. The digital camera of claim 7,
2 further comprising a viewing window for viewing an image of an object of
3 interest by said user;
4 wherein light representing said optically measured biometric parameter enters said
5 camera through said viewing window, said light being sensed by a digital optical sensing
6 apparatus within said camera..

1 12. The digital camera of claim 6, wherein said processor further selectively enables
2 at least one camera function responsive to identifying said user from said biometric
3 parameter.

1 13. A method of operating a digital camera, comprising the steps of:
2 obtaining a biometric measurement of a user with optical sensing apparatus of
3 said digital camera;
4 identifying said user using said optical biometric measurement, said identifying
5 step being performed automatically by said digital camera; and
6 capturing a digital image of an object of interest with said optical sensing
7 apparatus.

1 14. The method of operating a digital camera of claim 13, wherein said biometric
2 measurement is an image of an iris of said user's eye.

1 15. The method of operating a digital camera of claim 14,
2 wherein said step of obtaining a biometric measurement of a user comprises
3 configuring said camera according to a first configuration, wherein light from said user's
4 eye enters said camera through a viewing window, and is captured by said optical sensing
5 apparatus; and
6 wherein said step of capturing a digital image of an object of interest comprises
7 configuring said camera according to a second configuration, wherein light from said
8 object of interest enters said camera through a path other than said viewing window and is
9 captured by said optical sensing apparatus.
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1 16. The method of operating a digital camera of claim 13, further comprising the step
2 of:
3 recording information identifying said user, said information identifying said user
4 being associated with said captured digital image, said information being recorded
5 automatically by said digital camera.

1 17. The method of operating a digital camera of claim 13, further comprising the step
2 of:

3 selectively enabling at least one camera function responsive to identifying said
4 user from said optical biometric measurement.

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